

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Original): A method of fabricating a polarizing film by uniaxially stretching a resin film such as a polyvinyl alcohol-based film in a fabrication process including a swelling step and a dyeing step following the swelling step,

comprising the steps of immersing a resin film in bath liquids in at least two or more swelling baths in sequence in said swelling step,

wherein at least a bath temperature of a swelling bath located at a Nth position from the front-stage side is set at a temperature which is higher than a bath temperature of a swelling bath located at a (N+M)th position by 3°C or more (both N and M are specified positive integers).

2. (Original): The method of fabricating a polarizing film according to claim 1, comprising the steps of immersing a resin film in a bath liquid in a first swelling bath and then immersing the resin film in a bath liquid in a second swelling bath following said first swelling bath in said swelling step,

wherein a bath temperature of said first swelling bath is set at a temperature which is higher than a bath temperature of said second swelling bath by 3°C or more.

3. (Currently Amended): The method of fabricating a polarizing film according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein bath temperatures of said respective swelling baths are set at a temperature of 20°C or higher and 55°C or lower.

4. (Currently Amended): The method of fabricating a polarizing film according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein a bath temperature of a dyeing bath in which the resin film is immersed is set at a temperature of 20°C or higher and 50°C or lower in said dyeing step.

5. (Currently Amended): The method of fabricating a polarizing film according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the difference between a bath temperature of a swelling bath positioned just before a dyeing bath used in said dyeing step and a bath temperature of said dyeing bath is set at a temperature differential of 5°C or lower.

6. (Currently Amended): The method of fabricating a polarizing film according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the total of the time of the immersion of the resin film in a bath liquid in said respective swelling baths is 50 seconds or less.

7. (Currently Amended): The method of fabricating a polarizing film according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein as for said resin film, it is specified that a saponification degree is 95% or more and a polymerization degree is 2000 or more.

8. (Currently Amended): A polarizing film having a polarization degree of 99.95% or more, which is fabricated employing the fabrication method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended): A polarizer including a polarizing film which is fabricated employing the fabrication method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended): An optical film formed by laminating a polarizing film which is fabricated employing the fabrication method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended): An image display device including the polarizer according to claim 9 ~~or the optical film according to claim 10~~.

12. (New): An image display device including the optical film according to claim 10.